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SUMMARY N°25/SNOIE REPORTS



STANDARDIZED EXTERNAL INDEPENDENT FOREST MONITORING - SNOIE

SUMMARY OF THE EXTERNAL INDEPENDENT FOREST MONITORING REPORTS - CAMEROON

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The State of Cameroon has cumulatively incurred an alleged financial loss of about FCFA 73 million as a result of suspected illegal logging practices in the following localities: Forest Management Units (FMU) 09018, more precisely, in its Annual Allowable Cut 5-1 (AAC¹-5-1) located in the villages Nloupessa, Biba Yevol, Eboman, in the Biwong-Bulu sub-division, Mvila division, South region of Cameroon; UFA 08 009 located near the villages of Foufouïng and Fouï, in the Yoko sub-division, Mbam et Kim division, Centre region of Cameroon; a community forest belonging to the Common Initiative Group (CIG) Fusion des Forêts pour le Développement de Nlonkeng - Malomba (CIG FFDNM); and the Logging title n° 0903498 in the Akom 2 sub-division, Ocean division, South region of Cameroon.

These suspected illegal logging practices have been observed during independent forest monitoring missions carried out by civil society organizations (CSOs). These CSOs include: Centre Africain pour le Développement Durable et l'Environnement (CADDE), Ecosystèmes et Développement (ECODEV) and Centre pour le Développement Local Alternatif (CeDLA), which are all members of the Standardized External Independent Forest Monitoring System (SNOIE) with Forêts et Développement Rural (FODER) as coordinator. These missions, which were launched following alerts from community observers, CSOs and WRI satellite data, were carried out in accordance with the procedures of the Standardized External Independent Forest Monitoring System (SNOIE), which is ISO 9001:2015 certified.

Several violations were observed and documented in whistleblowing reports, which were subsequently forwarded to the regional delegations of the South and Centre regions of Cameroon of the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF). The alleged illegal acts identified were: **(1) non-marking of stumps; (2) non-demarcation of logging titles; (3) unauthorized logging in national forest estate (FDN); (4) unloading logs in a watercourse; (4) non-compliance with logging and forest intervention standards; (5) abandoning timber in the forest; (6) unauthorized logging in a state-owned forest; (7) logging beyond the limits of logging title n° 0903498, (8) logging in a Community Forests (CF) without authorization..**

The alleged perpetrators of the offences committed in FMUs 09018 and 08 009 and in the community forest of the CIG Fusion des Forêts pour le Développement de Nlonkeng - Malomba (CIG FFDNM) have not been identified. On the other hand, evidence observed on site during the independent forest monitoring missions suggested possible involvement of the forestry company Timber and Logs Transformation (TLT) SARL and Société Africaine des Bois de l'Est (SABE), holders of logging title no. 0903498, in illegal logging in the same community forest (CF). Moreover, unauthorized private local loggers are allegedly supplying timber from the CF to Timber and Logs Transformation (TLT) SARL and Société Africaine des Bois de l'Est (SABE), the two companies mentioned above.

Several species are impacted by this alleged illegal logging. These include Iroko (*Milicia excelsa*), Tali (*Erythroleum ivorense*), Padouk (*Pterocarpus mildbraedii*), Moabi (*Baillonella toxisperma*), Niové (*Staudtia kamerunensis*), Okan (*Cylicodiscus gabunensis*), Ekop beli, Doussié blanc (*Afzelia pachyloba*), Dabéma (*Piptadeniastrum africanum*), and Padouck rouge (*Pterocarpus soyauxii*).

Following is a summary of the independent forest monitoring reports produced using SNOIE procedures.

¹ AAC: Annual Allowable Cut



1. SUMMARY OF EXTERNAL INDEPENDENT FOREST MONITORING MISSION REPORTS ON ALLEGED ILLEGAL LOGGING IN FMU 09018 NEAR THE VILLAGES OF NLOUPESSA, BIBA YEVOL, EBOMAN AND SURROUNDING AREAS
(Biwong-Bulu subdivision, Mvila division, South region - Cameroon)

Alleged facts: Three (3) alleged offences were observed:

- **Non-compliance with logging and forest intervention standards**, in violation of the provisions of Decision No. 0108/D/MINEF/CAB of February 05, 1998 on the application of forest intervention standards, notably Chapter 10: Logging: Article 69, and Order No. 222/A/MINEF/May 25, 2001 on procedures for the elaboration, approval, monitoring and control of the implementation of production forest management plans, punishable under Article 125(2) of the Forest Law of November 27, 1981;
- **Woods abandoned in the forest, a violation of the provisions of Decision No. 0108/D/MINEF/CAB of February 05, 1998** on the application of intervention standards in the forest sector, notably chapter 10: Logging: Article 69, and Order No. 222/A/MINEF/May 25, 2001 on procedures for the elaboration, approval, monitoring and control of the implementation of production forest management plans, punishable under article 125(2) of the Forest Law of November 27, 1981 on forestry, wildlife and fisheries;
- **Unauthorized logging in a national forest** in violation of article 41 paragraph 1 of law 94/01 of January 20, 1994 governing forests, wildlife and fisheries, punishable under article 158 of the same 1994 forestry law.

The mission team identified, in parks and in the forest, a total volume of **28.98806974** m3 of logs and sawn wood still in good condition, which accounts for an estimated financial loss to the State of Cameroon of FCFA 3 345 350.87 (Three million, three hundred and forty-five thousand, three hundred and fifty point eighty-seven CFA francs), in accordance with order No 00000013/CF/A/MINFI/DGD/ of January 03, 2023 establishing the FOB values of logs and timber exported for a period of six months.

Alleged offender(s): unidentified

Location: VILLAGES NLOUPESSA, BIBA YEVOL, EBOMAN ET ENVIRONS (*Biwong-Bulu sub-division, Mvila division, South region of Cameroon*)

Submission date/recipient(s): February 05, 2024 (DRFoF-Sud)

Recommandations: Based on the observations made, CADDE suggests the following:

To MINFOF:

- Initiate a forest law enforcement mission in FMU 09018; AAC- 5-1 (at the end of the logging period);
- Identify the perpetrators of these illegal acts and, where appropriate, punish them in accordance with current regulations;
- Support the existing staff and the logistics of the Biwong-Bulu Forestry and Hunting Station.

Report number: 003/RO-SNOIE/CADDE/122023



Report summary: The Association Centre Africain pour le Développement Durable et l'Environnement (CADDE) has been alerted by its whistleblower in the village of Nloupessa of alleged illegal logging activity taking place in FMU 09018, specifically in its Annual Allowable Cut 5-1 (AAC-5-1) around the villages of Nloupessa, Biba Yevol, Eboman and surrounding areas. After cross-checking the information received with GLAD satellite alerts from Global Forest Watch (GFW), a significant loss of forest cover was observed in the area indicated. In response, a team from CADDE, a CSO partner of the Standardized External Independent Forest Monitoring (SNOIE), carried out an independent observation mission from the 1st to the 05th of December 2023 in the village of Nloupessa and its surroundings, Biwong-Bulu sub-division, Mvila division, South region of Cameroon, in order to document these allegations.

On completion of the investigations, the following facts were observed:

- **In FMU 09018, AAC-5-1**
 - A total of 60 pieces of unmarked Moabi (*Baillonella toxisperma*) lumber, 2.25m long, 0.4m wide, 0.25m thick and 13.5m³ in volume;
 - A total of 30 pieces of unmarked Iroko (*Milicia excelsa*) lumber, with a total volume of 7.2m³;
 - A total of 20 stumps of various species bearing the following markings: 1050, 09018, 5-1; 15500, 15-05-2023, with a felling code;
 - A total of 15 marked yards, including 03 containing various species marked 23/05/2023/15503, AB and 12 emptied of their contents;
 - 06 various marked tree bases;
 - 01 Niové log (*Staudtia kamerunensis*) marked 23/05/2023/15503, AB abandoned in the forest, weighing 3.134505 m³; and 01 Okan log (*Cylicodiscus gabunensis*) marked 23/05/2023/15503 AB abandoned in the park;
 - 01 Niové log (*Staudtia kamerunensis*) marked 23/05/2023/15503 AB) abandoned in the forest;
 - 01 unmarked Iroko stump;
 - 01 unmarked Niové fruiting branch abandoned in an identified park.

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2. SUMMARY OF EXTERNAL INDEPENDENT FOREST MONITORING MISSION REPORTS IN THE FMU 08.009 AND SURROUNDING AREA NEAR THE FOUFOUÏNG AND FOUÏ VILLAGES

Alleged facts: The following facts were observed in the FMU

- Failure to mark stumps or to demarcate titles exposes offenders to the penalties laid down in article 158 of Law No. 94/01 of 20 January 1994 laying down Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Regulations.
- **Logging in the National Forest Estate (FDN)**, punishable under article 156 of the 1994 Forestry law.
- **Unloading in a watercourse**, which is punishable under Article 22 of Decision No. 0108/D/MINEF/CAB of February 9, 1998 on the application of intervention standards in the forest environment in the Republic of Cameroon.

The estimated financial losses resulting from wood that has been visibly lying on the ground for a long time, both in the FMU wood parks and in those of the national estate forests, amount to approximately FCFA 22 960 821 (twenty-two million nine hundred and sixty thousand eight hundred and twenty-one CFA francs).

Alleged offender(s): unidentified

Location: FOUFOUÏNG AND FOUÏ VILLAGES

Submission date/recipient(s): 31 January 2024 (DRFOF-Centre)

Recommendations: The observations made have led ECODEV to suggest that MINFOF should:

- initiate a forest law enforcement mission in FMU 08009 and the national estate forests around the villages of Foufouïng and Fouï;
- identify the perpetrators of these illegal acts and, where appropriate, punish them in accordance with current regulations;
- carry out an exhaustive inventory of the logs in good condition found on the premises, in order to sell them at public auction if necessary.

Report number: 019/RO-SNOIE/ECODEV/122023

Report summary: On August 18, 2023, Ecosystèmes et Développement (ECODEV) was informed by one of the community observers in the Yoko district of alleged illegal logging activities in the Forest Management Unit (FMU) 08 009 allocated to the NOFELD company and located near the villages of Foufouïng and Fouï, among others. The cross-checking and updating of related information on December 18, 2023 revealed intense logging activity in the area. In response, the coordinator Standardized External Independent Forest Monitoring (SNOIE) authorized a field visit to verify the allegations made. To this end, an ECODEV team visited the site from the 21st to the 25th of December 2023, with the aim of observing and documenting the reported facts.

On completion of the investigations, the following facts were observed:

- **In FMU 08 009**



- A total of 32 unmarked strains of: Tali (*Erythrophleum ivorense*), Iroko (*Milicia excelsa*), Doussié blanc (*Afzelia pachyloba*), Dabéma (*Piptadeniastrum africanum*), and Padouck rouge (*Pterocarpus soyauxii*).
- A total of 02 timber yards containing 31 unmarked logs in good condition, respectively: 16 Tali logs in good condition with a volume of 54.94m³, and 10 Iroko logs with a volume of 93.40m³, 05 white Doussie logs with a volume of 32.72m³; for a total volume of 181.07m³ for all species combined.
- **In the national forests estate**
 - 06 unmarked stumps and crowns of various species, including White Doussie (*Afzelia pachyloba*), Iroko (*Milicia excelsa*) and Tali (*Erythrophleum ivorense*),
 - 01 wood yard containing 03 unmarked Tali and 01 Iroko logs, for a total volume of 15.63 m³.

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3. SUMMARY OF EXTERNAL INDEPENDENT FOREST MONITORING MISSION REPORTS CONCERNING ALLEGATIONS OF ILLEGAL FORESTRY PRACTICES IN THE GIC FFDNM COMMUNITY FOREST IN THE VILLAGES OF NLONKENG AND MALOMBA Akom 2 sub-division, Ocean division, South region of Cameroon

Alleged facts: The following facts were observed:

- **Logging beyond the limits of the logging title no. 0903498** in violation of article 46 paragraph 1 of law 94/01 of January 20, 1994 laying down Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Regulations, punishable under article 158 of the same 1994 forestry law.
- **Logging in a Community Forest (FC) without authorization**, in violation of the provisions of article 54(4) and punishable under the provisions of article 156 of the 1994 forest law.

This illegal logging primarily accounts for a considerable financial loss to the State of Cameroon, valued at around **FCFA 45,266,781.28 in Free On Board (FOB) value**, and secondly, this illegal logging, as it is being carried out, is having a real impact on the forest royalties that local communities should be receiving after agreement between the parties.

Alleged offender(s): Timber and Logs Transformation (TLT) SARL, Société Africaine des Bois de l'Est (SABE) and private local loggers, a.k.a. "WARRAPPEUR".

Location: NLONKENG AND MALOMBA VILLAGES Akom 2 sub-division, Ocean division, South region of Cameroon

Submission date/recipient(s): February 08, 2024 (DRFOF-Sud)

Recommendations: To this end, the mission suggests:

To MINFOF (National Control Brigade):



- investigate on the process that led to the extraction of logs in the CF of the GIC Fusion des Forêts pour le Développement de Nlonkeng - Malomba (GIC FFDNM) in order to establish those responsible of this illegal activity;
- check what has become of the wood stamped SAISIE which is still in the CF of the GIC FFDNM.
- sanction offenders and their accomplices in accordance with current forestry regulations.

Report number: 024/RO-SNOIE/CeDLA/122023

Report summary: A denunciation was received by the Centre pour le Développement Local Alternatif (CeDLA) from a sister CSO. This CSO, known as Association Equilibre Humanitaire Cameroun (ASSEHCAM), is based in the Akom 2 sub-division, Ocean division, South region of Cameroon, and supports members of the GIC Fusion des Forêts pour le Développement de Nlonkeng - Malomba (GIC FFDNM) in various aspects of development, the main activity of which is social forestry. The whistleblower informed us that the GIC FFDNM Community Forest, under provisional agreement, was, on the one hand, being hijacked by the forestry company Timber and Logs Transformation (TLT) SARL and, on the other hand, Société Africaine des Bois de l'Est (SABE), was allegedly taking advantage of logging title no. 0903498 to illegally fell wood in the same community forest, with the complicity of TLT SARL, and also that there were local individual loggers, commonly known as "WARRAPPEUR", supplying the two aforementioned companies with wood from the CF. Following this denunciation, the relevance of which was confirmed by cross-referencing WRI satellite data, CeDLA's technical team carried out an Independent Forest Monitoring (OIE) mission from December 04 to 08, 2023 to observe and document the said allegations.

At the end of the mission, the following facts were observed in the forest allotted to the GIC Fusion des Forêts pour le Développement de Nlonkeng - Malomba (GIC FFDNM):

- A total of 07 forest parks containing 41 logs, all unmarked, with a total volume of 326.937m3.
- 02 forest parks containing 15 logs all stamped with the seizure hammer, totalling 148.9m3
- 01 forest yard with 07 logs bearing the marks: SABE; Logging title: 0903498; DF10: 0010847; 18/1; date: 10-04-23 and all these logs have been struck with the seizure hammer, the whole cubing 35.1m3
- 01 Parc of lumber containing 503 pieces of Ekop beli all NM GPS coordinates 32N X: 660635 Y: 328991 cubing: 49,89 m3.
- 09 logs abandoned in the forest, all unmarked, with a total volume of 43.1m3
- 01 draw trail
- 02 stream obstructions
- 29 stumps all unmarked

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